acquisition problem; and (viii) geological surprises.

With a view to develop the untapped hydro-electric potential in the country, Government announced a Policy on Hydro Power Development in August, 1998 which addresses to the various issues that have led to decline of the share of hydro power and remedial measures required to accelerate it. The Policy seeks to encourage greater participation by private enterpreneurs and to create the financial administrative and legal environment to encourage massive investments. Steps are also being taken to accelerate the process of survey and investigation of the new hydro-electric sites with a view to create a shelf of projects which could be taken up for execution. In order to encourage greater private investment, tariff for hydel projects has been rationalised, procedures for transfer of techno-economic clearance have been simplified, a mechanism to cover geological risks has been evolved and State Governments have been made responsible for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement.

A massive thrust is proposed to be given for hydro development by starting work on preparing Detailed Project Reports in respect of hydro projects involving capacity of about 30000 MW in the next 5 years. The hydro capacity addition targets for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 have been fixed as 1297 MW and 4955.2 MW respectively.

Metering of Power Connection

3476. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to extend metering of power connections all over the country;

(b) whether there is a proposal to encourage all State electricity boards to complete extension of meters by the year 2003;

(c) whether adequate finances will be given to State Governments to complete this tasks;

(d) whether any finances have been made available to Andhra Pradesh Government to complete the metering within the entire State; and

(e) if so, the funds released for this purpose in 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The matter regarding metering of power connection was discussed among other things in the Power Ministers Conference held on 26.2.2000. The Conference resolved to undertake time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December 2001.

(c) With a view to encourage State Electricity Boards to take up meter installation schemes, Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is providing financial assistance to utilities for installation of meter under relaxed conditions. Moreover, installation of meters are covered under Govt. of India's Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme and thereby attract an interest subsidy of 4% on PFC's disbursements during 9th Plan period. Financial assistance are sanctioned by the PFC to projects / shcemes based on detailed appraisal of the project loan proposal received from respective SEBs / Utility and the overall exposure limit to each entity.

(d) and (e) PFC has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 33.80 crores to AP TRANSCO in January, 2000 for installation of 4.25 lakh meters to domestic consumers in Andhra Pradesh. Out of which a sum of Rs. 13.75 crores has been disbursed upto March, 2000.

Government Buildings near Feeder/High Intensity Power Lines

3477. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed norms followed while allowing construction of Government buildings near feeder / high intensity power lines;

(b) the minimum horizontal / vertical distance to be maintained from such power lines, intensity-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware of the construction of Government hospital under 400 KV DeharPanipat line of BBMB in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) the details of the representation/privilege notices received by Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken to demolish such impending disastrous buildings and to fix responsibility against the officials responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The provisions of Rule 79 of the Indian